

2018 Annual Water Quality Report

The 2018 Water Quality Report is now available. Visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Water to view the report to learn more about the sources and quality of your drinking water.

In This Issue

1	Is Your Toilet Running? Catch It!
2	Only Rain Down The Storm Drain
3	Contour Airlines To Offer Flights To Las Vegas And Oakland
4	Cash for Making Your Garden More Water Wise
5	Celebrate A Seafood Bounty At The Harbor & Seafood Festival
6	Plastic Bags Are Trash



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IS YOUR TOILET RUNNING? CATCH IT!

Toilets are the biggest culprit for leaks inside the house and they often leak silently. It's estimated that 20 percent of all toilets leak; each toilet can leak 200 gallons or more per day. If your toilet has been steadily leaking for years, you may not notice the slow increase in your water bill, so it's best to check your toilets now—it only takes 10 minutes. Below are the three most common toilet leaks, two of which are due to faulty flappers. It's imperative that the rubber flapper in your toilet is the correct flapper for your toilet brand and model.

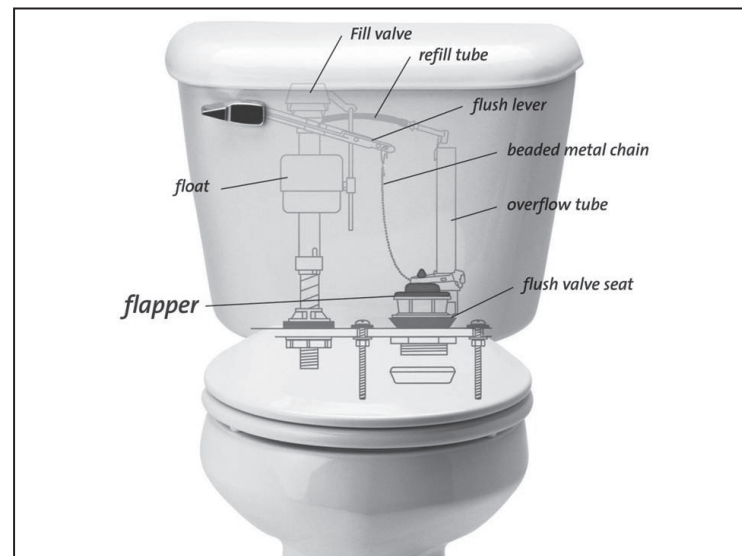
Flapper Leaks:

1. Put a few drops of food coloring in the tank or pick up free dye tablets from the 630 Garden St., Water Efficiency display counter.
2. Wait 10 minutes without flushing.
3. If you see color appear in the toilet bowl, your rubber flapper is leaking and needs to be replaced with the correct flapper for your brand and model of toilet.
4. Replace the flapper and re-test to make sure the new flapper works properly.

Overflow Tube:

Many toilets in Santa Barbara leak overnight when the water pressure rises. The water level in the toilet tank can rise above the overflow tube and run down the tube silently.

1. Remove your tank lid and observe the water level. The water level should be one full inch below the top of the overflow tube. If it is higher, it most likely runs at night. You may sometimes see water lines in the tank where the water has risen.
3. Adjust the water level down depending on your toilet type. First, give the toilet a half-flush to empty part of the tank and make adjustments easier.
 - If you have a floating ball: adjust the screw on the top of the fill valve mechanism (turn clockwise) to lower the ball.
 - If you have a floating cylinder: adjust the "V" shaped clip on the stiff wire link (slide it down) to lower the cylinder.
4. Flush (full flush) again once adjusted to see where the water level naturally rises.
5. The following day, check the water level. Adjust as needed.



Many toilets leak silently, often due to an issue with the rubber flapper. Photo: toiletflapper.org

Excessive Flush Volume:

Not all flappers are universal, and a mismatched flapper can result in gallons of undetected water waste per flush. To check this, you will need to look inside the tank.

1. Take off the tank lid and then watch what happens when you flush the toilet.
2. The flapper should open to drain most of the water in the tank, and then close after a few seconds to fill back up. When the flapper closes, there should be about 2 inches of water remaining in the tank before it starts to refill.
3. If your flapper stays open longer than a few seconds, or drains the tank completely on each flush, you may have a mismatched or faulty flapper.
4. Replace the old flapper with the flapper that is designed for the brand and model of your toilet.

For more information on toilet leaks and how to repair them, visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Leaks. The City's Water Conservation Program is here to help everyone save water with a free water checkup. Call (805) 564-5460 for more information. Let's save together!

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN

When pollutants enter our storm drains, they flow directly into our creeks and ocean untreated. This is a violation of the City's municipal code and poses a threat to local water quality and wildlife. Common examples of violations include:

Residential

- Yard waste and trash
- Laundry wastewater
- Sewer wastewater
- Home improvement waste (concrete, mortar, paint, etc.)
- Vehicle fluids (oil, anti-freeze)
- Pet waste
- Draining of pools/hot tubs



Recognize and report water pollution.

Creekside

- Trash/large item dumping
- RV sewage dumping
- Green waste disposal
- Human waste
- Transient encampments

Restaurant

- Cooking fats, oils, and grease
- Mop wash water
- Leaking dumpsters
- Pressure washing dining patios/buildings
- Washing floor mats outside

Construction

- Sediment/soil erosion
- Construction waste (paint, concrete, etc.)
- Sidewalk and street washing

Commercial/Industrial

- Hoses, pipes, or connections discharging directly to storm drains, creeks
- Trash and debris
- Improperly stored products (waste oil, paint, etc.)
- Leaking vehicles or equipment
- Exposed trash storage/disposal
- Commercial washers not containing wash water (mobile car washers, pressure washing, etc.)

Report pollution to the City of Santa Barbara Creeks Division's Enforcement Hotline at (805) 897-2688 or online at sbcreeks.com.

CONTOUR AIRLINES TO OFFER FLIGHTS TO LAS VEGAS AND OAKLAND

The Santa Barbara Airport has announced that Contour Airlines will begin service from the "depart differently" airport starting on October 16, 2018. The regional carrier will offer daily nonstop flights to Oakland (OAK) and service to Las Vegas (LAS) in its 30-passenger ERJ-135 jet aircraft.

Contour will offer the unique combination of low fares and a premium passenger experience. Introductory pricing starts at \$79 each way to Oakland and \$59 each way to Las Vegas. The onboard product includes comfortable leather seating with expanded legroom in every row and complimentary beverage and snack service for all passengers.

CELEBRATE A SEAFOOD BOUNTY AT THE HARBOR & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Celebrate Santa Barbara Channel's bounty and the fishermen who harvest it at the 17th Annual Santa Barbara Harbor & Seafood Festival. Taking place on October 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., this free event lures seafood lovers to Santa Barbara Harbor for one of our community's most cherished events. Timed to celebrate the opening of lobster season, the festival showcases fresh, regional seafood in addition to live music, maritime education, free boat rides, children's activities, vessel tours, and more. There's fun to be had for all ages.

The Harbor & Seafood Festival offers an interactive day for visitors and locals alike, reminding us that Santa Barbara Harbor is a working harbor where more than 100 fishermen land millions of pounds of seafood each year, adding \$30 million to the local economy and beyond.

Cash for Making Your Garden More Water Wise!



Get a rebate of up to 50% of the material costs of pre-approved irrigation equipment, water wise plants and mulch, laundry to landscape graywater materials, and smart irrigation controllers.

Any combination of irrigation equipment and planting costs may qualify for a one-time, maximum **rebate of \$1,000 for homes and \$4,000 for businesses**. Rebates are not retroactive and a pre-inspection is required.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
call 564-5460, or visit
SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterWise



Plastic Bags are TRASH



Better Options:
-reusable bags
and food
containers
-buy snacks in
bulk when
possible

SBRecycles.org

